

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

PROGRAMS

The Division of Community Corrections is charged with the supervision of offenders that are still under the jurisdiction of the state. The division conducts field supervision of offenders and oversees a variety of programs that afford offenders an opportunity to re-assimilate into the community. This division is led by Deputy Commissioner Lora Cole.

Field Services

The Field Services component of the Division of Community Corrections is responsible for the supervision of offenders released on parole, intensive supervision (ISP), earned release supervision (ERS), and sentenced by the court to probation.

F.R.E.E. (Facing Reality Educationally and Emotionally)

The MDOC Community Corrections Division has eight F.R.E.E. treatment coordinators located statewide that assist field officers in monitoring offender's treatment needs for substance abuse. In addition, treatment coordinators teach a structured life skills curriculum twice a month to assist offenders in other areas of their life that have been affected by their substance abuse problems.

Interstate Compact

The State of Mississippi participates in the Interstate Compact for Adult Offenders. Under the terms of the compact agreement, the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) provides courtesy supervision to probationers and parolees from other states in exchange for courtesy supervision of Mississippi offenders residing in other states.

Pre-Trial Diversion

The Pre-Trial Diversion program is an alternative to felony conviction in which a defendant voluntarily submits to supervision ranging from six months to three years. Charges against the offender may be dismissed if the period of supervision is successfully completed.

MS Re-entry Program

The program design consists of three (3) program functional phases:

- Phase I is the Institutional Phase which includes offenders that meet the age criteria of 20 to 35 years. In this phase, offenders are involved in individual case plans that consist of problem identification, attitude change through cognitive restructuring, treatment and a continual support system that begins in the institution and moves into the community for Phases II and III. The length of Phase I is from 6 months to one year.

- Phase II consists of a Day Reporting Center. In this phase, the offender's continued educational needs are met and the offender receives counseling, substance abuse treatment, drug- testing, and family activities which are held at the center. The length of Phase II is one year.
- Phase III is on-going support where the offender is fully reintegrated into the community and receives on-going mentor support.

Intensive Supervision Program

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) is designed to provide a level of supervision in a community setting to offenders who would otherwise be incarcerated. Offenders are required to wear electronic monitoring equipment and are limited in most cases to employment, treatment, and worship services activities. Each offender in ISP maintains inmate status and can be immediately placed in a MDOC facility upon violation of the program.

Drug Urinalysis Labs

Community Corrections field officers are responsible for routine and reasonable suspicion drug testing of offenders and random drug testing of 15% of the offender population each month.

Restitution Centers

There are four restitution centers in Mississippi that assist residents in obtaining employment as a condition of their probationary sentence. Money earned by residents is distributed to crime victims for restitution, courts for court costs and fines, and MDOC for room and board. The remainder of the resident's wages, after taxes, goes to the resident's family or to the resident's holding account. Upon completion of the program, residents are normally transferred to a field officer and remain under supervision for the remainder of their probationary sentence.

Community Work Centers

The MDOC Community Corrections Division oversees 17 community work centers throughout Mississippi. Minimum security inmates are assigned to these centers and are provided a gradual, re-introduction into community life. The program includes alcohol and drug counseling, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation, literacy classes and religious programs.

Each community work center houses approximately 99 inmates that perform a wide range of labor at no cost to city, county and state government agencies and to school districts. This work ranges from community beautification projects to bridge and road work repair; vehicle maintenance; and water, sewer, and sanitation details.

Inmate Labor

The offenders that serve their sentences in community work centers and restitution centers provide free labor to municipalities, counties and other state agencies. A sample of the work they perform includes highway beautification, facility maintenance, road work, and equipment maintenance. In FY 2003, the offenders in the community work centers provided entities with 2,923,712 total inmate hours, valued at minimum wage to equal \$15,057,116.80 in free labor. For the same 12 months the residents in the restitution centers provided entities with 28,100 total inmate hours, valued at minimum wage to equal \$2,458,646.62 in free labor.